

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 30, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 3-7, 13, 15-16, 19-20 and 55-62 were previously pending in this application. Claim 1 is presently amended. Claims 63 and 64 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-7, 16, 19-20, 55-58, and 61-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Aravamudan U.S. Patent No. 6,301,609 in view of Stimmel, U.S. Patent No. 6,678,719. Claims 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Aravamudan and Stimmel, in view of Godeforid, U.S. Patent No. 6,697,840. Claims 59 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Aravamudan and Stimmel, in view of Massie, U.S. Patent No. 7,162,238. Applicant respectfully traverses as follows.

The Examiner cited Stimmel against the portion of claim 1 that begins with “a bounding system” and pointed to col. 3, lines 50-col. 4, lines 15 of Stimmel as support for the rejection. (4/30/09 Office Action at 3.) Applicant respectfully disagrees that Stimmel, either in the cited portion or elsewhere, teaches or describes the limitations of claim 1 against which Stimmel is asserted.

Stimmel is directed to a system and method for enabling a user to determine the status of other users and to identify communication procedures for contacting the other users. (Abstract.) In the particular section cited by the Examiner, Stimmel describes how a user can “self assign a status” (e.g. “Do not disturb,” “Available,” etc.) and associate with that status methods for contacting the user (e.g. email, telephone, etc.). (Stimmel at col. 3, line 52-col. 4, line 2.) Stimmel then describes how a communication window on another user’s computer would display the available communication options for the first user (called “John” in the example in Stimmel). (Stimmel at col. 4, lines 3-15.) These teachings are not directed to the limitations of claim 1 they are cited against.

First, claim 1 requires “the bounding system defers the notification based at least in part on the notification priority and the likely available state of the user.” Nowhere does Stimmel teach, disclose, or suggest facilitating deferral of notifications based on their priority. As noted above, Stimmel is directed to a user determining a status and making that status available to other users. Stimmel does not address the deferral of messages based on priority.

Second, claim 1 requires forwarding a “group of notifications to the user once the bounding system receives a notification with a highest priority affiliated with the group of notifications.” Stimmel does not discuss forwarding a group of notifications upon receipt of a highest priority notification. In fact, nowhere does Stimmel discuss even the concepts of grouping notifications or forwarding notifications upon the occurrence of a high priority notification. Stimmel simply does not teach or suggest the limitations of grouping notifications or forwarding notifications upon the occurrence of a high priority notification as suggested by the Examiner.

Third, claim 1 requires “content of at least the highest priority notification included in the group of notifications is presented to the user in its entirety, and content of notifications associated with lesser priorities included in the group of notifications are displayed for the user as a summary.” Again, nowhere does Stimmel teach, disclose, or suggest displaying the content of messages differently based on message priority. Stimmel simply does not address this problem and does not teach, disclose, or suggest this limitation as required by claim 1.

Because neither Stimmel, nor any other cited art, discloses these limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Claims 3-7, 13, 15-16, 19-20, and 63 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed at least based on their dependency.

Claim 55, which was rejected by the Examiner under the same rationale as claim 1 (see 4/30/09 Office Action at 5) likewise recites multiple limitations not met by the references, even if combined. For example, the references do not meet at least the highlighted limitations:

55. A method comprising:
monitoring a state of a device;
deriving a context of a user from the state of the device;
inferring a likely available state of the user from the context;
*classifying a first notification based on a predefined notification
classification as a first classification;*

deferring the first notification directed to the user based on the first classification and the likely available state of the user;
classifying a second notification based on the predefined notification classification as a second classification, the second classification being different from the first classification;
deferring the second notification directed to the user based on the second classification and the likely available state of the user;
establishing a group of notifications including the first and second notifications;
determining that the second notification should be forwarded to the user;
forwarding the group of notifications to the user based at least in part on determining that the second notification should be forwarded;
presenting a content of the second notification included in the group of notifications to the user in its entirety; and
presenting a content of the first notification as a summary.

Claims 56-62 and 64 depend from claim 55 and should be allowed at least based on their dependency.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of all claims is respectfully requested.

General Comments on Dependent Claims

Each of the dependent claims depends from a base claim that is believed to be in condition for allowance, and Applicants believe that it is unnecessary at this time to argue the allowability of each of the dependent claims individually. Applicants do not, however, necessarily concur with the interpretation of the dependent claims as set forth in the Office Action, nor do Applicants concur that the basis for the rejection of any of the dependent claims is proper. Therefore, Applicants reserve the right to specifically address the patentability of the dependent claims in the future, if deemed necessary.

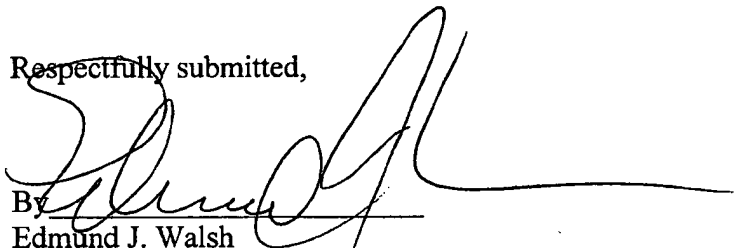
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825 under Docket No. M1103.70793US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 21, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



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